

Fort Worth Gazette.

Successor to the Democrat-Advance.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1883.

VOL. 7, NO. 1.

AUSTIN.

Both Houses of the Legislature Over-run with Business.

But Nothing of Importance Done After All.

Special to the Gazette.

PETITIONS.

Austin Tex., February 19.—By Mr. Randolph, from citizens of Texas praying that the law fixing passenger rates at 10 cents be repealed and asking if possible that a law be passed revising freight rates and to prevent discrimination.

By Mr. Jones, from citizens of Harris county praying for a law granting counties the right to issue bonds for the erection or repair of courthouses, also for carriage-makers and blacksmiths taking passage of a law permitting them to retain lien on work done by them.

By Mr. Cooper, from citizens of Liberty protesting against enlargement of their judicial district.

By Mr. Taylor, from committee of claims, favorably, to pay W. S. Andrews taxes illegally collected from him.

By Mr. Davis, from judiciary committee number one, favorably, authorizing attorney-general to use a seal of office.

By Mr. Davis, from committee on education, unfavorably, increasing the number of state students in the normal schools; unfavorably, house bill authorizing county commissioners to pay certain school vouchers audited under the acts of 1870 and 1878, as the senate bill on the same subject is pending; favorably, (with adverse minority report), to establish a normal school at Salado.

By Mr. Gooch, from committee on public lands, reported back, under instructions from the committee, a bill providing for the classification, sale and lease of public lands.

By Mr. Gibbs, from committee on constitutional amendments, unfavorably, abolishing secret session; senate favorably, amending article 5 of the constitution; favorably, authorizing cities, towns and school districts to levy an ad valorem tax for school purposes, (a minority report was offered with a substitute providing that it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to divide the county into convenient school districts but every incorporated city or town that has heretofore or may hereafter assume control of no public schools therein shall form a separate school district. Every school district may levy an ad valorem tax on all property, sufficient in connection with the proceeds of the available school fund as may be desired to maintain the school ten months in the year, provided the tax shall not exceed one-fourth of one per cent., which cannot be levied until a majority of the freeholders declare by vote).

By Mr. Jones, from the committee on penitentiary—Favorably, to ratify the lease of the penitentiary. A long minority report was read protesting against the passage of the resolution.

By Mr. Fara—To provide for the reorganization of a railroad commission with power to correct abuses and regulate rates, etc.

By Mr. Gibbs—Requesting members in congress to vote for the Blair educational bill.

By Mr. Fleming—That the judiciary committee be requested to inquire if there is any way to determine contested election cases. Adopted.

By Mr. Davis—That a committee be appointed to ascertain if the contract to build the state capital cannot be annulled advantageously to the state.

BILLS REFERRED.

By Mr. Jones, to amend the law relative to liens, so as to permit blacksmiths and other mechanics to retain lien on work done by them; to prohibit railroads from making excessive charges, also bill to protect and encourage stock raising and to provide for the appointment of an inspector of hides and animals for Harris county.

By Mr. Evans fixing penalty for keeping disorderly houses. By Mr. Fleming, to divide the county into convenient school districts. By Messrs. Shackelford, Jones, Nolan and Cooper to require commissioner of land office to issue a patent to Sarah Hewitt, for land in Tyler. Also bill providing that the Bible be read in public schools.

By Mr. Jones, to authorize county commissioners to issue bonds in such amount as may be necessary to erect courthouses and to repair same.

The bill to further regulate private corporations with amendment pending Friday was taken up and the amendment adopted and the bill engrossed.

Bill relating Washington and Burleson counties to the Galveston branch of the supreme court was engrossed.

Joint resolution amending the constitution and limiting state and county taxes was taken up. By Mr. Gibbs to amend, adding "Except in this constitution it is otherwise provided," adopted and passed.

Mr. Ferrell called up the bill punishing persons pulling bell ropes on moving trains. Engrossed.

Mr. Davis called up bill extending school age from six to 18 years with amendments. Amendment striking out six inserting eight. Committee amendment adopted. Mr. Davis moved to reconsider the vote. Lost.

By Mr. Traylor—to strike out 18 and insert 16. Adopted.

By Mr. Patton to strike out 8 and insert 7. Lost.

By Mr. Jones to strike out 18 and insert 17. Lost.

By Mr. Chesley—adding "provided that when such census is taken by incorporated towns the county assessor shall not take census." Adopted.

By Mr. Caven to strike out 18 and insert 14. After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn and the bill engrossed.

The joint resolution to submit certain amendments to the constitution to a vote of the people was taken up with substitute, and substitute ordered printed.

The bill for selling or leasing the school lands was taken up and made the special order Wednesday after the morning call, and from day to day until dispensed of.

MORNING SESSION.

The pending business was the engrossment of the school tax resolution. Mr. Steele offered an amendment to

strike out twenty-five cents and insert sixteen and two-thirds.

On motion of Mr. Upton the amendment was laid on the table.

Mr. Foster of Grayson offered a resolution to the second section providing that any county can be exempted by the legislature from the law, and districting the state into school districts.

After considerable discussion Mr. Foster's amendment was lost and Mr. Crum offered to amend by providing that that part of district law shall be for erection of school houses. Lost.

Mr. Cundiff offered to amend by requiring of the real estate tax payers to levy district tax. Lost.

Mr. Wood moved to strike out 25 cents and insert 20 cents. After some debate the amendment of Mr. Adams was lost. Ayes 24.

Mr. Acker called and the question was put separately. The first section was adopted by 52 yeas to 30 nays; the joint resolution was then engrossed as amended, and the joint resolution amending article eight, section nine of the constitution so as hereafter to read as follows:

"The state tax on property exclusive of tax necessary to pay the public debt shall never exceed 40 cents on the \$100 valuation, and no county, city or town shall levy more than 25 cents for city or county purposes, and not exceed 50 cents for roads and bridges, except for payment of debts already incurred, and for erection of public buildings; not to exceed 25 cents on \$100.

Mr. Stout offered an amendment allowing cities to levy fifty cents for other purposes besides public buildings.

Mr. Robertson, of Williamson, moved to lay Mr. Stout's amendment on the table, which motion prevailed.

Mr. McKinney moved to strike out article 15 and insert 10 cents for roads and bridges.

This amendment was earnestly opposed by Messrs. Stout, Parsons and Nash on the ground that 10 cents was not sufficient tax for the purposes named and Mr. McKinney said all the counties are now running their entire governments on 15 cents.

Mr. McKinney—"You are working on the basis of the present law."

Mr. Nash—"Yes, working into debt."

Mr. Chambers spoke against the amendment, contending his people are in favor of even a greater tax for public roads.

Mr. McKinney's amendment was lost—Ayes 38, nays 41.

Mr. Wurzbach moved to amend by inserting for debts incurred prior to 18th of April, 1876.

Mr. Foster, of Grayson, offered a substitute to read "legal debts." Adopted.

Mr. Stout renewed his amendment allowing incorporated cities and towns to levy tax for various purposes, with an amendment reducing from fifty to twenty-five cents. Mr. Foster of Grayson, favored the amendment and Mr. Taylor opposed it.

A motion to table failed and the amendment was adopted, by ayes 44, nays 29, after which the house adjourned until half-past two.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house met at half-past two with barely a quorum present.

Mr. Foster moved to recommit the tax resolution, with instructions to the committee to report each subject contained in the bill separately, and he gave as his reason that after the duration of the subjects the house would be compelled to find vote to pass on them jointly and accept all or none. Mr. Parsons opposed the motion for reference, and moved to lay it on table. Lost. A motion to recommit was lost by ayes 34, nays 45.

Mr. Foster moved to insert fifty-five cents instead of forty cents. He said if the house is going to force a vote jointly he desired to get at the matter in such a shape that they could all vote for it. He said if there is any one thing the democratic party is committed to, it is low taxes and every day application is entered here to raise taxation.

Mr. Frymier said the gentlemen speaking resolution forced the levying of forty cents.

Mr. Foster—"Did we not have a party in power once that went to the limits?"

Mr. Frymier—"Yes, but I hope we will not have again." He thought the legislature would in the future take heed in the past reduce taxation.

Mr. Foster—"Does the gentleman believe the democratic party will be in power always in Texas?"

Mr. Frymier—"Yes, I do."

Mr. Wurzbach moved to strike out forty cents and insert thirty-five cents.

Mr. Foster's amendment was voted down; ayes 33, nays 47.

Mr. Brown moved to insert "for revenue purposes." Lost.

Mr. Foster, of Limestone, offered an amendment to strike out forty and insert thirty-three and one-third. Adopted.

Mr. Taylor moved to insert afterward "and for taxes provided for free schools." Adopted.

The joint resolution was then ordered engrossed.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

By Mr. Mathews—Asking prohibition of sale of liquor within three miles of White Mound, in Grayson county.

By Mr. Peers—From citizens of Robertson county against convict labor.

By Mr. Moore, of McLennan, from commissioner's court of McLennan county, against new county of Richland, also from citizens of same land, also from citizens of same county on same subject.

By Mr. Robertson—From citizens of Williamson county, asking to be brought under provisions of the game law.

By Mr. Newton—From citizens of Cherokee, asking ratification of lease of penitentiaries.

By Mr. Merriweather—From citizens of the town of Goliad, asking the legislature to more definitely define north boundary line of their town.

Prohibition petitions were introduced by Messrs. Pendleton, Woods and McDaniels.

BILLS REFERRED.

By Mr. Wurzbach—To prevent the adulteration of food and drugs.

By Mr. Lee—Reimbursing Dr. Wolf for property destroyed while doing quarantine duty at Brazos Santiago.

By Mr. Barry—Regulating the sale or lease of unappropriated school, university and asylum lands.

By Mr. Robertson of Williamson—To bring his county under operation of the game law.

Also, authorizing boards of all-

men to appoint certain officers in cases of vacancy.

Also, authorizing mayors to celebrate the rites of matrimony.

By Mr. Stringer—Restoring jurisdiction of the county court of Titus county.

By Mr. McBride—For relief of Joseph A. Wrenn, ex-sheriff of Hays county.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Rosenthal—For discharge of fair commission clerks.

The resolution was considered in connection with reports of committees on contingent expenses, and the speaker instructed to discharge their clerks, leaving six.

The election law bill was taken up, and, pending reading, the speaker ordered same returned to the engrossment committee for correction, and the house adjourned.

THE JEANNETTE.

Final Reports of the Official Inquiry Concerning Her Loss.

All the Officers and Crew Exonerated and Highly Commended.

Washington, D. C., February 17.—The Jeannette court of inquiry asserts the following facts as deemed established by the evidence adduced concerning the circumstances of the loss of the Jeannette and DeLong and others of her officers and men. Although weight of evidence shows that the Jeannette was not especially adapted in strength or model for arctic exploration, the fact that an experienced explorer and made two cruises in her to the Arctic seas sustains the judgement and care shown in her construction. When last purchased she was strengthened and improved and the condition of the vessel on her departure from San Francisco was good and satisfactory.

The officers and crew, except that she was unavoidably deeply loaded, a defect which corrected itself by the consumption of coal, provisions and stores. The evidence relating to the management of the Jeannette up to the time of her departure from San Francisco was sufficiently good to reach it, rather than return to the south, point and pass the winter in the ice.

Mr. McKinney's amendment was lost—Ayes 38, nays 41.

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The officers and crew, except that she was unavoidably deeply loaded, a defect which corrected itself by the consumption of coal, provisions and stores. The evidence relating to the management of the Jeannette up to the time of her departure from San Francisco was sufficiently good to reach it, rather than return to the south, point and pass the winter in the ice.

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